

SUPPORT for S.B. 184 and H.B. 5262 regarding Absentee Voting

My name is Dominic P. Francese, of East Haven, CT. I am writing to support the bills in question today. I was very happy that Connecticut allowed voters to vote by absentee during the 2020 and 2021 elections. The process itself was very smooth and quite convenient. I did not have to stress about getting to the polling place during my busy day of getting my children to school and myself to work. Having two very active children means things can change on the fly, and planning ahead to be a certain place at a certain time may not be possible. That is why I appreciated the ability to cast my ballot early in my local drop box. In fact, this allowed my daughter, Marcella, to participate in the election as well by dropping off my ballot (pictured below: New Haven ballot boxes, October 27, 2020).



Once these bills pass, I hope Connecticut pursues other ways to make voting easier for its citizens. In the past, I have lived and voted in Maryland, where early voting is offered. I took advantage of this method of voting on my way home from work. New York, where I also lived, now also offers an early voting option. As an Italian citizen, a ballot is mailed to my house for elections.

The notion that voting must only be in person at a certain location during certain hours of one day of the year unless you have one of a limited number of allowed excuses is simply antiquated and does nothing but limit voter participation by making voting more difficult. We've seen that mail-in voting has worked successfully over the past 2 years in Connecticut and even longer in other states. I hope Connecticut keeps this method of voting and looks to other ways of voting more accessible for its citizens.